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(71) Applicant: **ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY, INC.**
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242 (US)

(72) Inventors:

- **Byrum, Randal T.**
Milford, Ohio 45150 (US)
- **Conlon, Sean P.**
Loveland, Ohio 45140 (US)

(74) Representative:

Tunstall, Christopher Stephen et al
Carpmaels & Ransford,
43-45 Bloomsbury Square
London WC1A 2RA (GB)

(54) **Gastric band introduction device**

(57) A surgical tool for safely introducing a gastric band into a patient's abdomen is provided. The instrument includes an inner rod slidably and coaxially disposed within a support tube. The inner rod includes a

gastric band releasably secured thereon. Distal movement of the inner rod into the support tube exposes said gastric band.

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Description

Background of the Invention

[0001] Over the years many methods of treating morbid obesity have been undertaken. One of the more promising methods employs the placement of a circum-scribing band, commonly known as a "gastric band", around a portion of the stomach whereby the stomach may be compressed thereby creating a stoma opening that is smaller than the normal interior diameter of the stomach thereby restricting food intake into the lower digestive portion of the stomach.

[0002] Typically, the gastric band is introduced into a patient's abdomen by pushing it through a large trocar or trocar site by hand. This method of introduction increases the risk of infection resulting from the gastric band contacting the patient's skin. Inserting the gastric band directly through a trocar may also undesirably damage the gastric band. Consequently, a significant need exists for a surgical instrument that enables the introduction of a gastric band into a patient's abdomen without coming in direct contact with the patient's skin or trocar.

Brief Summary of the Invention

[0003] The present invention overcomes the above noted and other deficiencies in the prior art by providing a surgical instrument that allows for the introduction of a gastric band into a patient's abdomen without allowing the gastric band to contact the patient's skin or a trocar.

[0004] In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the surgical instrument includes an elongated inner rod within an elongated support tube. The inner rod includes a mechanism for releasably engaging a gastric band. When the inner rod is slid into the support tube, the mechanism for releasably engaging a gastric band is exposed.

[0005] In another embodiment of the invention, the surgical instrument similarly includes an elongated inner rod within an elongated support tube. The inner rod includes a releasably engaged gastric band on one end. When the inner rod is slid into the support tube, the gastric band is exposed.

[0006] The above summary of the present invention is not intended to describe each embodiment or every implementation of the present invention. Advantages and attainments, together with a more complete understanding the invention, will become apparent and appreciated by referring to the following detailed description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0007] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, il-

lustrate embodiments of the invention, and, together with the general description of the invention given above, and the detailed description of the embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the present invention.

[0008] FIG. 1 is an isometric view of an unactuated gastric band introduction device;

[0009] FIG. 2 is an isometric view of an actuated gastric band introduction device;

[0010] FIG. 3 is a partial side view of the distal end of the inner rod of gastric band introduction device;

[0011] FIG. 4 is an isometric view of an actuated gastric band introduction device with the gastric band partially removed from the inner rod; and

[0012] FIG. 5 is an enlarged partial view of the isometric view of FIG. 4 showing the distal end of the inner rod with the gastric band partially removed.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0013] Referring now to the Figures wherein like numerals indicate the same elements throughout the views, there is shown in FIG. 1 an isometric view of an unactuated gastric band introduction device 10 ready for introduction into a patient. The gastric band introduction device 10 includes an elongated support tube 2 with a handle 7 at a proximal end. The gastric band introduction device 10 preferably includes a pair of opposed finger loops 3 extending outwardly from the handle 7. An inner rod 5 is slidably located within the support tube 2 and has a thumb ring 4 at a proximal end and one or more upwardly protruding pins 6 for engaging a gastric band 20 at the distal end. The inner rod 5 may also include a shelf 11 located at the distal end of the support tube 2 for holding a gastric band 20. The inner rod 5 may also include a longitudinal protrusion 12 which may engage a longitudinal groove (not shown) in the support tube 2 for effecting the sliding engagement between the inner rod 5 and support tube 2 and also for stabilizing the inner rod 5 when it is inserted into the support tube 5.

[0014] The support tube 2 is preferably comprised of stainless steel but may be comprised of any durable engineering plastic. Preferably, the support tube 2 has a diameter of about 10mm to about 20mm and more preferably between about 12mm and about 15mm. Preferably, the support tube 2 is between about 30cm and about 50cm in length and more preferably about 43cm. However, it should be appreciated that the support tube 2 can be adapted in both length and diameter to accommodate any kind of gastric band or to fit within any sized trocar. The handle 7, the finger loops 3, the inner rod 5, and the thumb ring 4 can be comprised of either stainless steel or any suitably durable engineering plastic. While pins 6 are shown in the illustrative embodiment, any other mechanism, such as a clip or a strap, which will releasably secure the gastric band to the inner rod while also allowing the gastric band to be easily removed from the inner rod will suffice.

[0015] FIGS. 2 through 5 show the gastric band introduction device 10 after the device has been actuated to deploy a gastric band 20 from the distal end of the support tube 5. In FIGS. 2 through 5, the inner rod 5 has been fully inserted into the support tube 2 and has pushed the gastric band 20 from the distal end of the support tube 5. Once the gastric band 20 has been deployed, the gastric band 20 can be removed from the inner rod 5.

[0016] In use, the gastric band introduction device, in an unactuated state, is inserted into a trocar placed in the patient's abdomen. The device is then actuated by sliding and inserting the inner rod fully into the support tube, thereby deploying the gastric band. The gastric band is then removed from the inner rod by the dissector to be placed around the stomach. Once the gastric band has been removed, the inner rod is pulled back out of the support tube, and the device removed from the trocar.

[0017] While the present invention has been illustrated by the description of several embodiments and while the illustrative embodiments have been described in considerable detail, it is not the intention of the applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications may readily appear to those skilled in the art.

[0018] It will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art that the above invention has equally applicability to other types of implantable bands. For example, bands are used for the treatment of fecal incontinence. One such band is described in U.S. Patent 6,461,292 which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. Bands can also be used to treat urinary incontinence. One such band is described in U.S. Patent Application 2003/0105385 which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. Bands can also be used to treat heartburn and/or acid reflux. One such band is described in U.S. Patent 6,470,892 which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. Bands can also be used to treat impotence. One such band is described in U.S. Patent Application 2003/0114729 which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Claims

1. A surgical instrument for deploying an adjustable gastric band comprising:

an elongated support tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

an elongated inner rod having a proximal end and a distal end wherein said distal end comprises a mechanism for releasably engaging a gastric band;

wherein said inner rod is slidably and coaxially

disposed within said support tube and wherein said distal movement of said rod exposes said mechanism for engaging a gastric band.

2. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein said proximal end of said elongated rod includes a thumb ring.

3. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein said mechanism for releasably engaging a gastric band includes one or more pins.

4. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein said elongated inner rod further comprises a longitudinal protrusion and wherein said elongated support tube further comprises an inner surface having a longitudinal groove therein wherein said longitudinal protrusion of said elongated inner rod is slidably engaged with said longitudinal groove of said inner surface of said elongated support tube.

5. The surgical instrument of claim 3, wherein said elongated inner rod further comprises a shelf for releasably supporting a gastric band at said distal end, said one or more pins further being disposed on said shelf.

6. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said elongated support tube is between about 30mm and about 50mm in length.

7. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said elongated support tube is between about 10mm and about 20mm in diameter.

8. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said elongated support tube is between about 12mm and about 15mm in diameter.

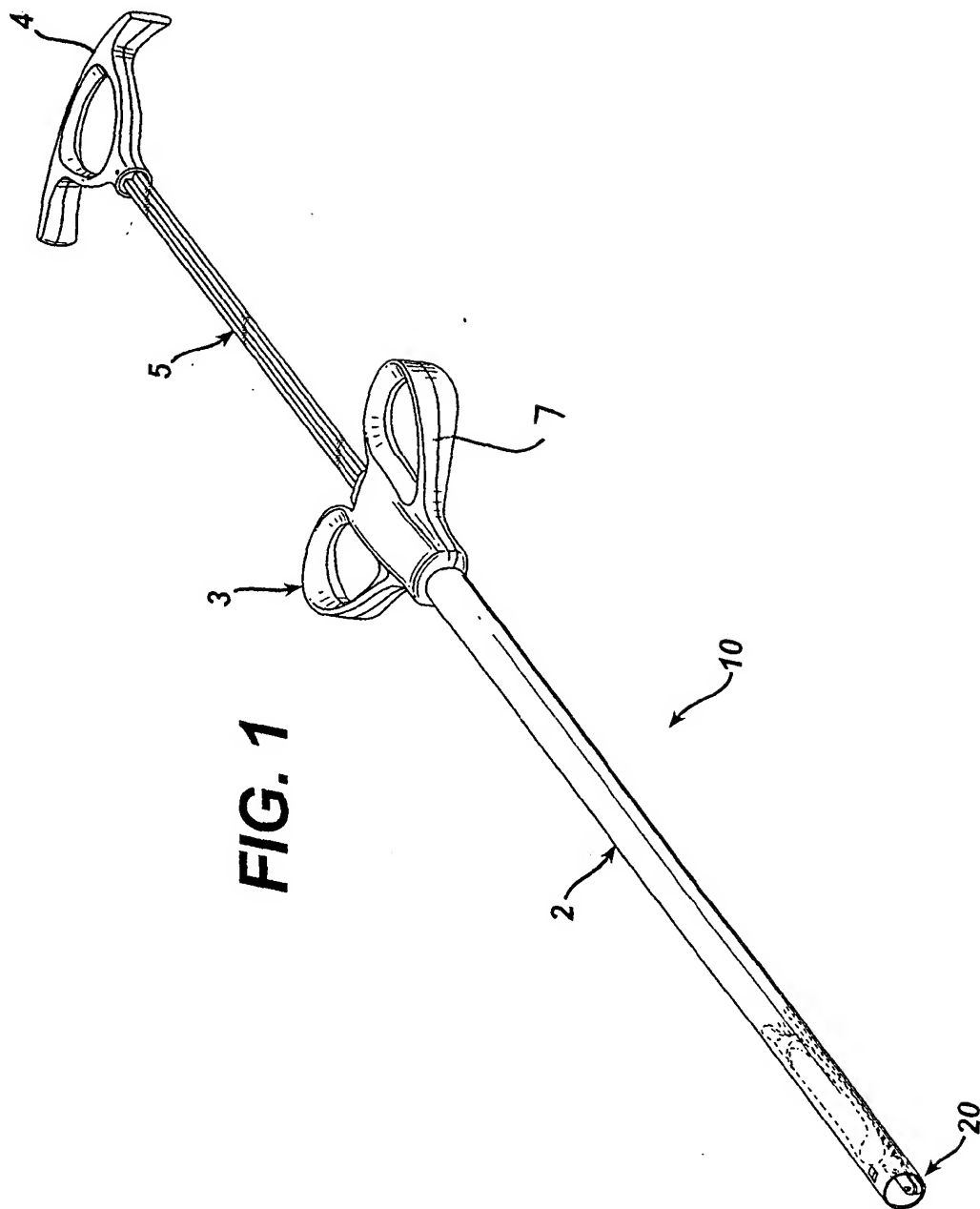
9. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said proximal end of said elongated support tube includes a handle.

10. A surgical instrument for deploying an adjustable gastric band comprising:

an elongated support tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

an elongated inner rod having a proximal end and a distal end wherein said inner rod is slidably and coaxially disposed within said support tube;

a gastric band releasably secured to said distal end of said inner rod wherein said distal movement of said rod exposes said gastric band;



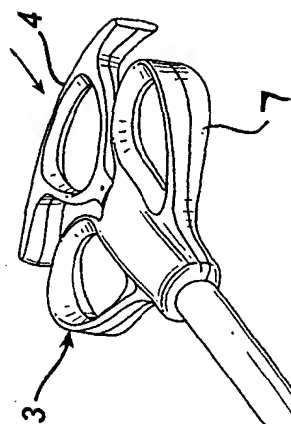


FIG. 2

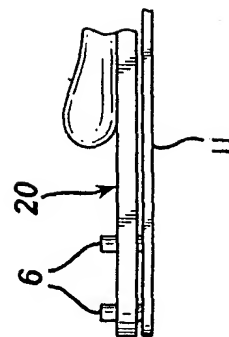
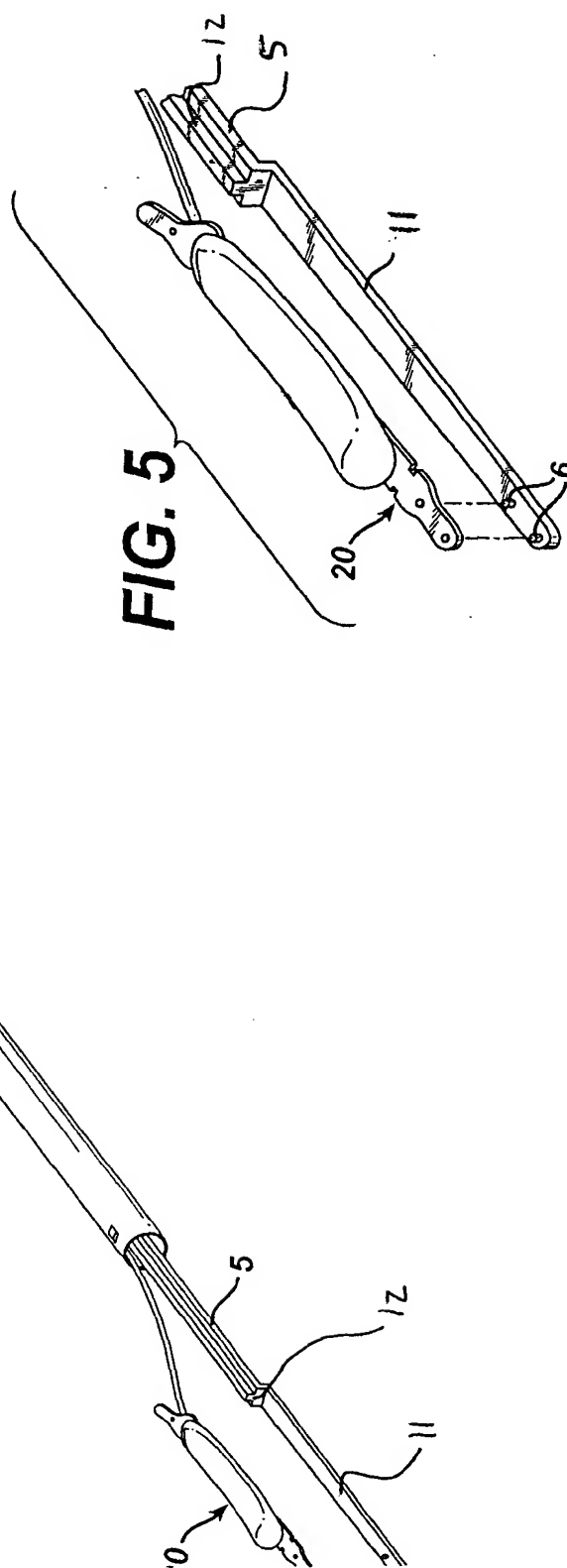
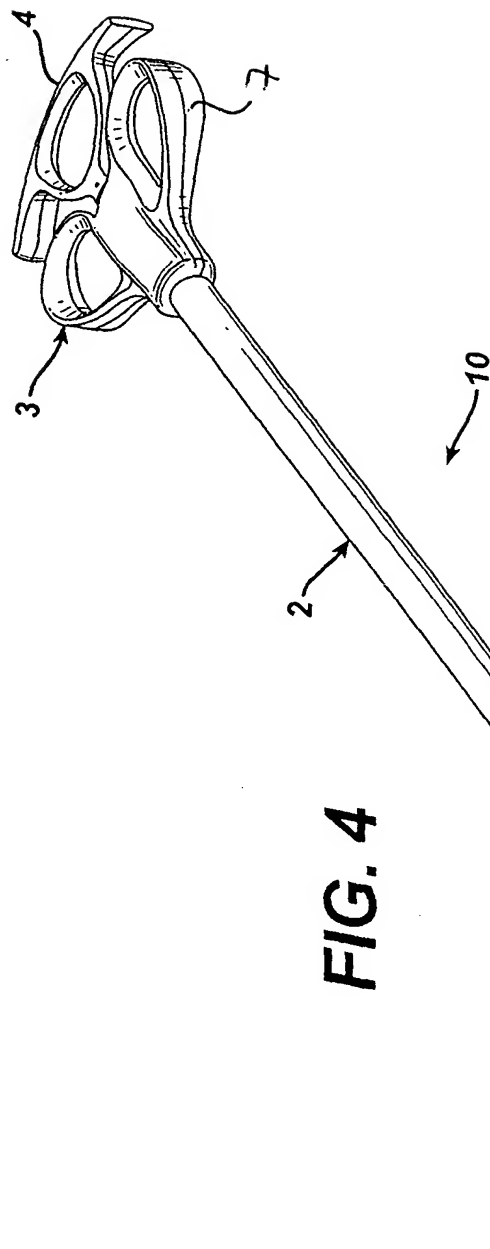


FIG. 3





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 25 6020

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 26 January 2005	Examiner Sánchez y Sánchez, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (F04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 04 25 6020

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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